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and the Spanish songs by Professor A. F. Kuersteiner were particularly well received.

FIFTH SESSION, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

The session began at 9.35 a. m.

Professor F. G. Hubbard presented the following report and resolutions for the executive committee of the Central Division:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONCERNING SIMPLIFIED SPELLING.

At the fifth session of the Indianapolis meeting of the Central Division there was read a letter addressed to the Central Division by Mr. E. O. Vaile, chairman of the Committee on Simplified Spelling of the Illinois State Teachers' Association. This letter concluded with a request that our Association "endeavor in some organized, efficient way to promote the establishment of the new spellings in the usage of our universities and colleges."

On motion of Professor James Taft Hatfield it was voted that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee to investigate and to report at our next meeting (see Proceedings for 1912, page xxxiv).

The letter of Mr. Vaile reads as follows:

Oak Park, Ill., Dec. 24, 1912.

To the Modern Language Association,

Mr. Charles B. Wilson,

Secretary, Central Division.

Gentlemen:

As representing the teachers of the State of Illinois and sharing your interest in the simplification of our English spelling, may we most respectfully express to you our conviction that a great desideratum in this movement at the present time is its substantial and practical endorsement by our universities and colleges?

The teachers in our elementary and secondary schools can not with propriety introduce the new spellings in their school rooms until these spellings are more fully authorized. In the estimation of our school boards and of the school public in general the adoption of

new spellings in our schools can be sanctioned only when they have come into regular and dominant use by our universities and colleges. Changes once established there, in the usage of the highest court of appeal, will be challenged no further. In fact, in progressive communities our lower schools will then be put on the defensive if they do not come into line.

Your action of a year ago in adopting the recommendations of Circular 23 issued by the Simplified Spelling Board, had a decided effect in improving the standing of this movement with the general public. But such endorsement does not appeal with commanding force to school boards and teachers. Tho their personal convictions and practice may entirely agree with it, yet as public servants, accountable to public opinion, or rather prejudice, they must have due warrant for what they teach or permit to be taught. They must know that they are sustained by a weight of authority that can not be disputed, nor with credit ignored.

This being the situation, shall we not be pardoned for begging you, in your position of potent influence, to make it your endeavor, in some organized, efficient way, to promote the establishment of the new spellings in the usage of our universities and colleges?

Very respectfully yours,

COMMITTEE ON SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

ILLINOIS STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION,

By its Chairman.

The Executiv Committee began its investigation of the matter by formulating two *questionnaires*, which were sent out in the month of May, 1913. One of these *questionnaires* was addrest to members of the Modern Language Association living in the territory from which come ordinarily those who attend the meetings of the Central Division. This territory covers the following States: Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. The other *questionnaire* was addrest to the presidents of colleges and universities and was sent to institutions in the territory described above, with the addition of the following States: California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico.

The first *questionnaire* was sent to 450 members of the Association; 206 replies were received. The second *questionnaire* was sent to 300 institutions; 132 replies were received.

SUMMARY OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

The replies to the *questionnaire* sent to colleges and universities will be considered first. Total number of *questionnaires* sent out, 300; total number of replies, 132.

Question 1. Has your institution adopted officially the changes in spelling recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board? Total number of replies, 132. No, 121. Yes, 6. Yes, conditionally, 5. Of the six that reply yes, two have adopted simplified spelling to a limited extent as indicated in a printed list of words. One has adopted it to be introduced "as rapidly as feasible." Three have adopted it in full. Of conditional adoptions, five are in the State of Illinois. Here the adoption comes into force when two-thirds of the colleges and universities in the State agree to it. One is in Kansas under the same conditions for that State. A little further information may be gleaned from the answers to Question 7 in the *questionnaire* sent to members of the Association. "Has your institution adopted them (*i. e.*, simplified spellings)?" In addition to the institutions enumerated above, one normal school has partially adopted simplified spelling; one State agricultural college has adopted some of the 300; and one State university has adopted a selected list from the 300.

Question 2. If these changes have been adopted, was their adoption through action of (a) the president? (b) the board of trustees? (c) the faculty? In the institutions where simplified spelling has been adopted, it has been thru action of the president in three cases; of the president and board of regents in two cases; of the president, board of regents, and faculty in one case; and by the faculty alone in three cases.

Question 3 (a). Has your faculty ever voted on the question? Total number of replies, 132. No, 122. Yes, 17. Committee appointed, 4.

Question 3 (b). If so, what was the vote? In seven cases the vote was negativ. In four of these cases no numbers were given. In one case the majority was three to one; in one case the vote was fourteen to two; and in another, twelve to six. In six cases the vote was affirmativ; in one of these it was nearly unanimous; in one, unanimous; in one, twelve to two; in the other cases no numbers are given.

Question 4. What is the present attitude of the faculty of your institution toward simplified spelling? Total number of replies, 110. In 32 cases the attitude is unknown; in 15 cases the attitude is that of indifference or lack of interest; in 11 cases the attitude is divided

or neutral; in 19 cases the majority is favorable or friendly; and in 19 cases the majority is opposed. In two cases simplified spelling seems to be used by comparatively large numbers; in three cases by few. In one case it is reported that the modern language departments are favorable, and in one case the English department is reported as unfavorable. In three cases the attitude is favorable provided that united action to a greater or less extent can be obtained. In one case it is reported that a committee has been appointed, and in another case it is suggested that the attitude of the faculty is to a certain extent affected by fear of an unfavorable attitude toward simplified spelling on the part of the State legislature.

Question 5 (a). To what extent is simplified spelling used in publications of your institution? Total number of replies, 111. In 93 cases the reply is "not at all;" in ten, "very little;" in two, "moderately;" in one, "as rapidly as feasible;" in one, "partially in bulletins, none in catalogue." In one, "the first, second, and third lists are used in all but the catalogue; and many beyond the first list in the catalogue." In one, "it has come into use as far as adopted;" and in two, "it is in use to the full extent."

Question 5 (b). In official correspondence? Total number of replies, 110. In 89 cases the reply is "not at all;" in 14 cases, it is used to a small extent; in two cases its use is optional; in one case the first, second, and third lists are used; in one case it is used to the full extent, and in one case simplification goes farther than the Board has yet gone. In one case adoption is proceeding as rapidly as possible, and in another all officers do not yet use it.

Question 6 (a). Do you believe that the official adoption of simplified spelling by colleges and universities would hasten its adoption in the high schools and in the grade schools? Total number of replies, 101. Yes, 69. No, 3. In 21 cases the answer is a weak affirmative expressed by such words as "possibly," "probably," "perhaps," "may be," "very likely." In five cases strong doubt is expressed. In two cases there is qualification concerning extent or co-operation, and in one case the reply is "no opinion."

Question 6 (b). Are you in favor of the official adoption by colleges and universities of simplified spelling? Total number of replies, 100. Yes, 37. No, 33. "Not at present," eight. In doubt, five. Open to conviction, one. Not interested, two. In favor of but little change, or of a change at a slow rate, ten. In favor of official adoption, under conditions involving co-operation to a greater or less extent, four.

From this summary the committee draws the following inferences:
(1) Very few institutions, six out of 132, have adopted the changes

of the Simplified Spelling Board. Five others have adopted them conditionally.

- (2) Where the changes in spelling have been adopted, the action has been taken by the president alone, by the president and the governing board, and sometimes by the faculty alone.
- (3) Few faculties have ever voted upon the matter (17 out of 133). In seven of these cases, the vote was negativ; in six it was affirmativ; in four cases no definit information is given concerning the result.
- (4) The attitude of the faculties of 110 institutions is in general one of lack of interest or indifference. In 19 cases only is the majority of the faculty reported as favorable or friendly, and in the same number of cases the majority is reported as opposed. In 32 cases the attitude of the faculty is reported as unknown or unexprest, which may be taken to indicate that there is very little interest in the matter.
- (5) In only 18 institutions out of 111 is "simplified spelling" used in the publications, and in only 21 cases out of 110 is it used in official correspondence, and in 14 of these its use is but little.
- (6) A majority of the replies express a belief that the official adoption of the suggestions of the Simplified Spelling Board by colleges and universities would hasten adoption in the high schools and in the grade schools. About one-third of those replying favor the official adoption by colleges and universities. About the same number are opposed, and the rest are doubtful or favor postponement or gradual adoption.

From all this we think that it may fairly be inferd that "simplified spelling" has obtaind almost no recognition from colleges and universities, and that faculties in general have exprest little interest or concern in the matter. While a majority of the institutions replying think that adoption by higher institutions of learning would hasten adoption in secondary schools, only about one-third are in favor of adoption by colleges and universities.

SUMMARY OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL DIVISION

We consider now the replies to the *questionnaire* sent out to members of the Central Division. Total number of *questionnaires*, 450; total number of replies, 206. These replies may be summarized as follows:

Question 1. Are you in favor of "simplified spelling?" Total number of replies, 206. Yes, 118. No, 56. Qualified, 32. Of the

qualified answers, 16 may be called qualified yes, eight qualified no, and eight neutral. The qualifications generally limit the extent of the application of the term "simplified spelling." Some of them express objection to the procedure of the Board.

Question 2 (a). Do you approve the changes recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board? Total number of replies, 199. Yes, 79. No, 65. Qualified, 55. Almost all of the qualified affirmative answers make reservations with regard to the extent of the changes recommended by the Board. The qualified negative answers object in a more decided way to the extent.

Question 2 (b). Do you wish to have the Board go further? Total number of replies, 189. Yes, 62. No, 73. Qualified, 54, about evenly divided between yes and no. Most of the qualified affirmatives suggest limitation in the way of slower and less radical changes than those proposed in the past. Two or three express a desire to have the Board proceed more rapidly. Nearly all of the qualified negatives express opposition to any further action by the Board at present.

Question 3 (a). Are you in favor of recognizing the Simplified Spelling Board as the authority in the determination of simplifications? Total number of replies, 185. Yes, 98. No, 66. Qualified, 21. Of the affirmative qualifications (7), most are concerned with the expediency of accepting, temporarily, the present Board, in lieu of any other existing authority of the same nature. The qualifications in the negative (14) generally object to the Board as authority, or as the only authority, or criticize the composition and action of the Board.

Question 3 (b). If not, whom would you suggest as proper authority in this matter? Total number of replies, 53. As might be expected, there is a very wide range to the suggestions for a proper authority. In five cases, it is suggested that the present Board would be acceptable if its authority were limited; if it were more uniform and thoroughgoing; if it contained more members from various bodies; if it co-operated with universities and societies; if it showed greater wisdom. An international board is favored by five, three of whom favor a phonetic alphabet. A board representing all English-speaking nations, or representing England and America, is favored by six. An American joint board is favored by six. The bodies mentioned are the Modern Language Association, American Philological Association, the most important universities, philologists, men of letters, newspaper men, publishers, and writers. The Modern Language Association is favored by seven. Three of these propose co-operation with the Simplified Spelling Board. Usage is proposed as the only authority

by four, the dictionaries by four, and eight want no authority. There are six recommendations of a miscellaneous character.

Question 4. To what extent do you simplify your own spelling? Total number of replies, 186. In 71 cases spelling is not simplified at all. In 25 cases there is very little simplification. In nine cases substantially all the simplifications proposed by the Board are used. This use is confined to correspondence in ten cases. Most of the simplifications are used by four, and seven limit their use to the list of 300 words. In 13 cases members report that they use the simplifications to a greater or less extent, determined by convenience, practicability, permission, the occasion, the person addressed, the desire to avoid criticism or to appear peculiar, in theory but not in practice. There are four other replies, too miscellaneous, and too extended for classification. In 23 cases specific words are mentioned. Among them are the following: *Thru, tho, catalog, program, rime, thot, altho, labor, center, defense, honor, medieval*; the use of the past participle in *-t* is mentioned by six.

Question 5. Do you urge others to use the changes recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board? Total number of replies, 189. Yes, 50. No, 117. Qualified, 22. In almost all cases the qualification is concerned with the extent of the simplification or with the degree of urgency.

Question 6 (a). Do you favor the use of these changed spellings by colleges and universities? Total number of replies, 160. Yes, 89. No, 65. Qualified, 6. The qualifications concern the extent or suggest greater or less option.

Question 6 (b). Do you favor the use of these changed spellings by normal schools? Total number of replies, 152. Yes, 89. No, 62. Qualified, one ("doubtful").

Question 6 (c). Do you favor the use of these changed spellings in high schools? Total number of replies, 153. Yes, 89. No, 62. Qualified, two ("hardly," "some").

Question 6 (d). Do you favor the use of these changed spellings by grade schools? Total number of replies, 157. Yes, 92. No, 63. Qualified, two.

In 13 replies general qualifications to (a), (b), (c), and (d) together are stated. The character of these is rather too miscellaneous for brief presentation.

Question 7. Has your institution adopted them? The results of the replies to this question have been combined with those of the replies to Question 1 of the *questionnaire* sent to presidents of colleges and universities: "Has your institution adopted officially the changes in spelling recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board?" They have been given above.

Question 8. Are you in favor of having the Central Division of the Modern Language Association adopt resolutions urging colleges and universities to recognize, adopt, and put into use the changes already recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board, and to be recommended by the Board in the future? Total number of replies, 181. Yes, 79. No, 76. Qualified, 26. Of the qualified answers 15 may be called qualified affirmativ, nine qualified negativ, and two neutral. As examples of the qualified affirmativ the following may be given: "Chiefly cases of divided usage." "The list of 300 words only, for the present." "Only in co-operation with the Modern Language Association." "For past simplifications." "Must go slowly." "To recognize, not to adopt and put into use." As examples of the qualified negativ the following may be given: "Not if use is to be compulsory." "Not until spelling is completely remodeled." "Not yet."

From this summary the committee draws the following inferences:

- Question 1. It is clear that a majority, tho not a very large one, favors simplified spelling.
- Question 2 (a). A majority does not approve the changes recommended to their full extent.
- Question 2 (b). There is a strong feeling that the Board should go no further, at least for the present.
- Question 3 (a). About 53 per cent. accept the Board as authority; about 35 per cent. do not accept it; and the rest either accept the Board as authority because there is no other authority at present, or they object to the present composition of the Board.
- Question 3 (b). The suggestions concerning another authority are rather miscellaneous, but in general favor a body composed of representatives of language associations, educational associations, institutions of higher education, writers, and publishers. Some suggest an international English committee. No one proposes a self-constituted body.
- Question 4. Simplified spelling is not used to any considerable extent by the members of this association.
- Question 5. About 135 of those who replied to the *questionnaire* approve simplified spelling (see Question 1), but only about one-half of this number urge others to use it.
- Question 6. About 58 per cent. of those who reply to this question favor the use of simplified spelling in colleges, normal schools, high schools, and grade schools.
- Question 7. A very small number of colleges and universities use simplified spelling either in their publications or in official correspondence.

Question 8. The majority in the affirmativ is too small to warrant the Executiv Committee to recommend that the Central Division adopt resolutions urging colleges and universities to recognize, adopt, and put into use the changes already recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board, and to be recommended by the Board in the future.

F. G. HUBBARD,
A. F. KUERSTEINER,
G. O. CURME.
Committee.

RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE EXECUTIV COMMITTEE

Resolvd, 1. That the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America favors the movement for the reform of English orthography;

2. That the Central Division requests the Executiv Council for the year 1914-15 to consider the whole subject of the further reform of English orthography and to make recommendations to the Association at the union meeting to be held in 1915.

Professor B. E. Young moved that the report of the Executiv Committee be approved and that the resolutions presented by them be adopted. Professor J. T. Hatfield moved the following amendment:

Resolvd, That the Central Division favors and advocates the immediate adoption, on the part of all American institutions, of the list of 300 simplified words issued by the Simplified Spelling Board.

This amendment was lost, and then the original motion was carried, approving the report of the Executiv Committee and adopting their resolutions as recommended.

On behalf of the committee on place of meeting, Professor Julius Goebel reported recommending that the Central Division accept the invitation of President George E. Vincent to hold the meeting of 1914 in Minneapolis under the auspices of the University of Minnesota.

This recommendation was adopted.